



# Tennessee Farm Facts

Tennessee Field Office • PO Box 41505 • Nashville, TN 37204 • (615) 781-5300 • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Crop Values Farm Numbers Livestock Operations TDA News Release  
Annual Milk Production Licensed Dairy Herds Hay Prices Received by Farmers

February 22, 2008

## Tennessee Crop Values Down 15 Percent

Production value for Tennessee's 2007 principal field, fruit, and vegetable crops, at \$1.12 billion, decreased 15 percent from 2006's \$1.31 billion. The decline in values can be primarily attributed to a decrease in production. Showing an increase in value were **corn**, **grain sorghum**, and **wheat**. Declining from the previous year were **apples**, **cotton**, **cottonseed**, **hay**, **peaches**, **snapbeans**, **soybeans**, **squash**, **tobacco**, and **tomatoes**.

A significant increase in acreage and price resulted in **corn** being the number one valued crop in the State at \$308 million. Completing the top five were **hay**, \$200 million; **cotton and cottonseed**, \$191 million; **soybeans**, \$183 million; and **tobacco**, \$75.8 million. The value of Tennessee's fruit and vegetable crop decreased 23 percent to \$59.9 million. Fruit crops were decimated by a spring freeze and fresh market vegetable prices were down. Fresh market **tomatoes** were valued at \$39.4 million, fresh market **snapbeans**, \$17.2 million; **squash**, \$1.38 million;

commercial **apples**, \$40 thousand; while commercial **peaches** had no significant production in 2007 due to freeze damage.

Tennessee's **corn** crop was up 68 percent from the previous year's value. The 2007 marketing year average price was up 26 percent, while production was up 33 percent. Despite production being down 43 percent, **hay** became the number two ranked crop based on prices being up 40 percent. **Cotton** and **cottonseed** fell to third in 2007 as cotton production dropped 55 percent and prices were up only 13 percent. **Cottonseed** prices were up 76 percent with production down 53 percent. Ranking fourth in 2007 was **soybeans**, as prices rose 67 percent but production dropped 60 percent from 2006. Rounding out the top five, **tobacco** showed production dropping 21 percent, while prices increased 4 percent. For the first time ever, dark fired-cured tobacco was valued higher than burley.

### Crop Values: Tennessee, 2006-2007

Crop	Unit	Average Price Per Unit		Value of Production	
		2006	2007	2006	2007
		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Apples	lb.	.273	.400	2,456	40
Corn for grain	bu.	2.93	3.70	183,125	307,877
Cotton	lb.	.464	.522	304,681	154,094
Cottonseed	ton	102.00	180.00	44,982	37,080
Grain Sorghum	cwt.	5.20	6.80	3,043	5,065
Hay, All	ton	58.50	82.00	249,522	199,850
Alfalfa	ton	122.00	150.00	13,542	9,450
All Other	ton	57.00	80.00	235,980	190,400
Peaches	ton	1,410.00	<sup>1</sup>	2,538	<sup>1</sup>
Snapbeans, Fresh Market	cwt.	38.00	32.00	19,152	17,216
Soybeans	bu.	6.30	10.50	277,641	183,330
Squash	cwt.	20.10	18.30	1,725	1,376
Tobacco, All	lb.	1.893	1.962	93,009	75,823
Dark Fire-Cured	lb.	2.400	2.420	40,704	39,010
Burley	lb.	1.600	1.590	49,280	33,072
Dark Air-Cured	lb.	2.200	2.180	3,025	3,741
Tomatoes, Fresh Market	cwt.	42.00	34.00	49,980	39,406
Winter Wheat	bu.	3.53	4.90	42,925	52,234

<sup>1</sup> No significant commercial production in 2007 due to freeze damage.

### Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class, Tennessee, 2002-2007 <sup>1</sup>

Year	Economic Sales Class					Total
	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$249,999	\$250,000 - \$499,999	\$500,000 & Over	
Number						
2002	66,000	17,500	1,950	1,200	850	87,500
2003	65,500	17,500	1,950	1,200	850	87,000
2004	63,500	17,500	1,950	1,200	850	85,000
2005	61,500	17,500	1,950	1,200	850	83,000
2006	59,500	17,500	1,950	1,200	850	81,000
2007	57,500	17,500	1,950	1,200	850	79,000

<sup>1</sup> A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would be sold during the year.

### Land in Farms: Economic Sales Class, Tennessee, 2002-2007

Year	Economic Sales Class					Total	Average Size Farm
	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$249,999	\$250,000- \$499,999	\$500,000 & Over		
1,000 Acres							Acres
2002	4,800	3,600	950	950	1,400	11,700	134
2003	4,700	3,600	950	950	1,400	11,600	133
2004	4,650	3,600	950	950	1,450	11,600	136
2005	4,400	3,600	950	1,000	1,550	11,500	139
2006	4,300	3,600	950	1,000	1,550	11,400	141
2007	4,300	3,600	950	1,000	1,550	11,400	144

### Livestock Operations<sup>1</sup> & Rankings: Tennessee and United States, 2006 & 2007

Class	Tennessee			Rank in U.S.		United States		
	2006	2007	2007/2006	2006	2007	2006	2007	2007/2006
	Number		Percent			Number		Percent
All Cattle & Calves	48,000	48,000	100	4	4	971,400	967,440	100
Beef Cows <sup>2</sup>	42,000	42,000	100	4	4	762,880	757,900	99
Milk Cows <sup>2</sup>	1,100	950	86	17	17	74,980	71,510	95
All Hogs & Pigs	1,100	1,000	91	16	19	65,940	65,640	100
Sheep	1,200	1,200	100	26	26	69,470	70,590	102
All Goats	6,000	6,600	110	2	2	104,170	108,130	104

<sup>1</sup> An operation is any place that has one or more of the species on hand anytime during the year. <sup>2</sup> Included in operations with cattle & calves.

### Refund Deadlines Near for Farm Cost Share Program - Farmers Urged to Make Purchases Now

State Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens is urging farmers approved for cost share assistance through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program to make their purchases now in order to receive reimbursement. “With spring fast approaching, this is the time that farmers should follow through with their approved purchases so that checks can be processed in a timely manner,” said Givens. “Waiting to make these purchases could mean the difference in improving their farming operation and losing out all together. Competition for these cost share dollars is expected to be heavy during the next application period. So, it’s important that farmers who are approved for this year go ahead and make their purchases as there is no guarantee of participation for next year.” For farmers approved under this year’s program, deadlines for requesting reimbursement are: **Cattle Genetic Cost Share – May 1; Hay Storage Facility Cost Share – May 1; Dairy and Quality Milk Initiative – June 1; Animal Feed Storage Cost Share – June 1; Producer Diversification Cost Share – June 30.**

In the first six months of this year’s program, more than 8,200 farmers across the state were approved for TAEP cost share assistance. The department recently approved an additional 800 farmers whose applications were “on-hold” for animal feed storage and dairy equipment purchases. Farmers recently approved will receive notice in the mail informing them that they can proceed with making qualified purchases. The TAEP is a state funded program established by Governor Phil Bredesen and supported by the General Assembly to increase farm income in Tennessee by helping farmers invest in better farming practices and by encouraging diversification and innovation. Through TAEP, farmers can qualify for 35 percent, up to 50 percent cost share in some cases, on a variety of projects including cattle handling and genetics, hay and feed storage, dairy and milk quality, agritourism, specialty crops and specialty livestock. For more information about reimbursement deadlines or cost share opportunities through TAEP, contact TDA’s Market Development Division at (615) 837-5160 or visit at [www.picktnproducts.org](http://www.picktnproducts.org) and click on the Ag Enhancement link.

## Tennessee Milk Cow Numbers Continue to Decline

**Tennessee:** Milk produced on Tennessee farms during 2007 totaled 999 million pounds, down 50 million pounds from 2006. Average milk produced per cow, at 15,857 pounds, increased 200 pounds from 2006. Milk cow numbers in the state averaged 63,000 in 2007, down 4,000 cows from the previous year's average of 67,000.

**U.S.:** The annual production of milk for the U.S. during 2007 was 186 billion pounds, 2.1 percent above 2006. Revisions to 2006 production decreased the annual total 2 million pounds. Revised 2007 production was up 3 million pounds from last month's publication. Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 20,267 pounds for 2007, 316 pounds above 2006. The average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 17.9 percent from 1998. The average number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. during 2007 was 9.16 million head, up 0.5 percent from 2006. The average number of milk cows was revised up 5,000 head for 2007.

### Milk Cows and Production: Tennessee, 2002 - 2007

Year	Number of Milk Cows on Farms <sup>1</sup>	Milk Production Per Cow	Milk Production <sup>2</sup>
	Thousands	Pounds	Million Pounds
2002	88	14,943	1,315
2003	79	15,253	1,205
2004	75	15,400	1,155
2005	70	15,743	1,102
2006	67	15,657	1,049
2007	63	15,857	999

<sup>1</sup> Average number on farms during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh. <sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

### Milk Cows and Production: Number and Milk Produced by Quarter, Tennessee, 2006 - 2007

Year	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>				Milk Production <sup>2</sup>			
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
	1,000 Head				Million Pounds			
2006	69	67	65	66	284	284	233	248
2007	66	64	62	61	270	272	224	233

<sup>1</sup> Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. <sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

### Milk Cows: Number of Operations & Licensed Dairy Herds by Selected States, Tennessee, and United States, 2006 - 2007

State	2006		2007	
	Operations with Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>	Licensed Dairy Herds <sup>2</sup>	Operations with Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>	Licensed Dairy Herds <sup>2</sup>
	Number	Number	Number	Number
AL	170	75	150	70
AR	280	190	250	170
GA	560	300	480	280
IA	2,400	2,230	2,400	2,130
KY	2,000	1,240	1,900	1,120
MN	5,400	5,295	5,200	5,070
MS	330	190	310	170
MO	2,600	1,790	2,400	1,720
NC	590	345	470	310
NY	6,400	5,980	6,200	5,820
OH	4,300	3,530	4,200	3,430
PA	8,700	8,610	8,400	8,010
<b>Tennessee</b>	1,100	650	950	590
VA	1,300	775	1,200	745
WI	14,900	14,640	14,400	14,170
US	74,980	62,070	71,510	59,135

<sup>1</sup> An operation is any place having one or more head of milk cows, excluding cows used to nurse calves, on hand at any time during the year. <sup>2</sup> Average number of dairy farms licensed to sell milk, based on counts collected from State and other regulatory agencies.

# Hay Prices Received by Farmers, by Month, Tennessee, 2002-2007

Crop Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Marketing Year Average <sup>1</sup>
Dollars Per Ton													
<b>Alfalfa</b>													
2002	115.00	105.00	105.00	115.00	120.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	116.00
2003	115.00	110.00	115.00	115.00	115.00	120.00	115.00	110.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	110.00	110.00
2004	100.00	100.00	105.00	110.00	110.00	115.00	115.00	115.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	110.00	105.00
2005	115.00	115.00	115.00	115.00	120.00	125.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	125.00	125.00	120.00
2006	120.00	120.00	125.00	125.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	115.00	120.00	125.00	130.00	122.00
2007	145.00	145.00	145.00	155.00	160.00	165.00							152.00
<b>All Other</b>													
2002	54.00	54.00	54.00	56.00	58.00	58.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	54.00	55.00	56.00	55.00
2003	52.00	50.00	52.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	52.00	55.00	57.00	55.00	57.00	58.00	54.00
2004	55.00	53.00	50.00	52.00	53.00	52.00	51.00	51.00	50.00	49.00	49.00	51.00	51.00
2005	50.00	51.00	54.00	56.00	55.00	55.00	54.00	52.00	54.00	54.00	56.00	55.00	54.00
2006	54.00	53.00	55.00	57.00	58.00	57.00	58.00	58.00	60.00	63.00	64.00	66.00	57.00
2007	75.00	75.00	80.00	83.00	90.00	93.00							82.00
<b>All</b>													
2002	56.00	55.00	55.00	58.00	56.00	60.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	56.00	57.00	58.00	56.00
2003	54.00	52.00	54.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	54.00	56.00	58.00	56.00	58.00	59.00	55.00
2004	56.00	54.00	52.00	54.00	55.00	54.00	53.00	53.00	52.00	51.00	51.00	52.00	52.00
2005	52.00	53.00	56.00	58.00	58.00	57.00	56.00	55.00	56.00	56.00	58.00	57.00	56.00
2006	56.00	55.00	57.00	59.00	59.00	58.00	60.00	60.00	63.00	67.00	66.00	68.00	58.50
2007	77.00	77.00	82.00	85.00	93.00	95.00							82.00

<sup>1</sup>Marketing year is May 1 of current year through April 30 of the following year.